

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 04671 141752Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /061 W
----- 068614

P R 141638Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3783

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4671

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO, PINS

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: IN AUGUST 13 MEETING WITH SOARES, PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES ASKED FOR 45 DAYS TO GET RID OF GONCALVES. SOARES' RESPONSE WAS: "TOMORROW." DANISH PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN'S AUGUST 11-13 VISIT UNDERScoreD EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR SOCIALISTS. RIVAL SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATIONS IN EVORA AUGUST 12 PRODUCED STANDOFF. MORE VIOLENCE CONTINUES IN AREA NORTH OF LISBON. CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AUGUST 12 APPROVED MOTIONS SUPPORTING MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF FABIAO HAS ASKED PRESIDENT TO REORGANIZE COMMUNIST-LINING J-5 (PRO-PAGANDA AND CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION) OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF. VARELA GOMES IS OUT AS DIRECTOR OF J-5'S CENTER FOR MILITARY SOCIOLOGY. END SUMMARY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 04671 141752Z

1. SOARES MEETS WITH COSTA GOMES; SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES

MET FOR TWO HOURS MORNING AUGUST 13 WITH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES. EMBASSY SOURCES STATE THAT PRESIDENT ASKED SOARES TO GIVE HIM 45 DAYS TO GET RID OF PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES. SOARES RESPONSE WAS: "TOMORROW."

2. VISIT BY DANISH PRIME MINISTER: DANISH PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN ENDED THREE-DAY VISIT TO PORTUGAL AUGUST 13. HIGHLIGHT OF VISIT WAS 45-MINUTE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES ON AFTERNOON AUGUST 12. DANISH EMBASSY SOURCES QUOTE JORGENSEN AS SAYING MEETING WENT "AS EXPECTED." JORGENSEN STRESSED SUPPORT FOR PLURALISTIC PATH TO SOCIALISM AND IMPORTANCE OF FREE PRESS, ELECTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC PLITICAL PARTIES. JORGENSEN AND PARTY CANCELLED AUGUST 12 VISIT TO LISNAVE SHIPYARDS WHEN GOVERNMENT-APPOINTED ADMINISTRATOR AND COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED LISNAVE WORKERS BARRED ENTRANCE TO PS MEMBERS ACCOMPANYING JORGENSEN. JORGENSEN AND PS MEMBERS VISITED SHIPYARDS NEXT DAY AFTER WORKERS COMMISSION RECONSIDERED ITS EARLIER DECISION.

3. EVORA DEMONSTRATIONS: SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE SIMULTANEOUSLY IN EVORA NIGHT OF AUGUST 12. PS RALLY WAS CALLED TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR SOUTHERN REGION MILITARY COMMANDER GENERAL PESARAT CORREIA, A SIGNER OF MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT. PCP COUNTER DEMONSTRATION STRESSED NEED FOR INCREASED UNITY OF PEOPLE AND ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT IN FACE OF WAVE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST LEFT. CONFRONTATION AVERTED BETWEEN RIVAL DEMONSTRATORS BY TIMELY INTERVENTION OF TROOPS. (COMMENT: COMMUNISTS MADE MAJOR EFFORT TO SHOW STRENGTH AT EVORA. EMBOFF ON SCENE OBSERVED FROM TWENTY TO THIRTY BUS AND TRUCK LOADS OF RURAL WORKERS MOVING TOWARD CITY PRIOR TO DEMONSTRATION. MOST OF THESE DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN PCP RALLY ITSELF, BUT APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN HELD IN BACK AS RESERVES FOR EXPECTED CONFRONTATION WITH PS.)

4. VIOLENCE: VIOLENCE AGAINST THE LEFT CONTINUED IN AREA NORTH OF LISBON. ON AUGUST 12:
--IN OPORTO, AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO BURN FSP OFFICES.
-- IN VISEU, OFFICES OF FIVE MORE LEFTIST PARTIES WERE SACKED.
--IN PRIOR VELHO, UDP OFFICERS WERE BURNED.
ON AUGUST 13:
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 04671 141752Z

--IN ARCOS DE VALDEVEZ, PCP OFFICES WERE SACKED AND BURNED.
--IN MARCO DE CANAVEZES, PRIVATE HOME, MISTAKENLY IDENTIFIED AS UDP HEADQUARTERS, WAS BURNED.
PCP REGIONAL COMMITTEE FOR NORTH ISSUED STATEMENT AUGUST 12 CONDEMNING CONTINUED VIOLENCE AND CALLING FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST LOCAL MILITARY AUTHORITIES WHO IT ALLEGES HAVE REMAINED "PASSIVE" IN FACE OF REACTIONARY ATTACKS.

4. CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY: AUGUST 12 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SESSION APPROVED MOTIONS SUPPORTING MELO ANTUNES DOCUMENT AND PROTESTING AGAINST THE SANCTIONS ORDERED BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL AGAINST SIGNERS. COMMUNIST AND MDP/CDE DELEGATES PARTICIPATED IN NEITHER DISCUSSION NOR VOTING ON EITHER MOTION. BOTH PCP AND MDP/CDE DELEGATIONS, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN DELIBERATIONS ON THE CONSTITUTION. THE MDP/CDE DELEGATES RETURNED TO THE ASSEMBLY AUGUST 12 AFTER BEING ABSENT DURING PREVIOUS THREE SESSIONS AS PROTEST AGAINST AUGUST 5 STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE IN NORTH BY PS LEADER LOPES CARDOSO.

5. J-5 UNDER ATTACK: ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF FABIAO HAS PRESENTED REQUEST TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES, AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES, CALLING FOR COMPLETE REORGANIZATION OF J-5 (PROPAGANDA AND CULTURAL DYNAMIZATION) OF THE ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF. INCIDENT WHICH PRECIPITATED ACTION WAS UNAUTHORIZED J-5 CRITICISM OF THE J-5 CENTER FOR MILITARY SOCIOLOGY, HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN ASKED TO RESIGN. J-5, HOWEVER, IS STILL IN BUSINESS. ON AUGUST 13, IT ANNOUNCED DECISION BY RULING DIRECTORATE AUTHORIZING ONLY DIRECTORATE MEMBERS AND CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THREE SERVICES TO COMMENT ON DOMESTIC POLITICS IN INTERVIEWS WITH FOREIGN OR NATIONAL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES.

6. COMMENT: VISIT BY PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN UNDERSCORED CONTINUED SUPPORT OF SOARES AND PS BY EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. JORGENSEN'S PLAIN TALK TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES AS USUAL DREW NO DIRECT RESPONSE. COSTA GOMES' REQUEST FOR MORE TIME TO GET RID OF GONCALVES IS INDICATIVE OF PRESIDENT'S CONTINUED INDECISIVE STANCE. JORGENSEN, UPON REQUEST OF PS HOSTS, DID NOT MEET WITH PPD LEADERSHIP. JORGENSEN, HOWEVER, DID GRANT INTERVIEW TO FRANCISCO BALSEMAO OF "EXPRESSO," (AND PPD), THUS ALLOWING HIM TO CONVERSE WITH PPD ELEMENTS WITHOUT GOING AGAINST WISHES OF HOSTS. DECISION BY GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATOR AND LISNAVE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LISBON 04671 141752Z

WORKERS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE POORLY TIMED FROM COMMUNIST STANDPOINT. COMING AS IT DID SHORTLY BEFORE JORGENSEN'S VISIT WITH PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES IT SERVED TO HIGHLIGHT COMMUNIST DOMINATION OF KEY SECTORS OF INFLUENCE IN PORTUGAL. SUBSEQUENT VISIT BY JORGENSEN TO SHIPYARDS IS REGARDED BY SOCIALISTS AS SYMBOLIC VICTORY OVER HARD-CORE LISNAVE COMMUNISTS.

7. MODERATE PARTIES LED BY SOCIALISTS HAVE USED CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY AS A SOUNDING BOARD FOR CRITICISM OF GOVERNMENT AND SUPPORT FOR RC MODERATES. RESPONSE OF COMMUNISTS AND FELLOW TRAVELLING MDP/CDE HAS BEEN EITHER NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH DISCUSSION OR TO ABSENT THEMSELVES FROM ASSEMBLY CHAMBER DURING SUCH DEBATE. EXCEPT FOR BRIEF PROTEST BOYCOTT LAST WEEK, HOWEVER, BOTH COMMUNISTS AND MDP/CDE HAVE CONTINUED TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN DEBATE AND VOTES ON CONTENT OF CONSTITUTION. THUS, WHILE

TAKING EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS THE FUTILITY OF "ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY," COMMUNISTS AND THEIR ALLIES ARE KEEPING SOME OPTIONS OPEN. FACT THAT COMMUNIST FLOOR LEADER IN ASSEMBLY IS PCP NUMBER TWO MAN, OTAVIO PATO, FEEDS SPECULATION THAT CUNHAL'S LEADERSHIP OF PARTY IS WAVERING.

8. DECISION TO SACK VARELA GOMES, J-5'S MOST NOTORIOUS COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZER, LOOKS LIKE SOP TO CRITICS DESIGNED TO STAVE OFF EITHER WHOLESALE REORGANIZATION OF J-5 OR ITS OUTRIGHT ABOLITION.
OKUN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON04671
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750281-0590
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750853/aaaabunb.tel
Line Count: 179
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS SUMMARY: IN AUGUST 13 MEETING WITH SOARES, PRESIDENT COSTA
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006